

A1 10. (Amended) The method of forming a natural foot orthosis for providing support for a lower extremity as defined in claim 5, wherein said thermoformable plastic material is a strip of copolymer including a distal end, wherein said distal end of said strip is centered on a longitudinal arch on said positive mold and said strip is adapted to extend [extended] below the malleoli posterior above tendon and curved centered proximal over an edge of said positive mold.

15. (Amended) A natural foot orthosis for providing support for a lower extremity, comprising:

a rigid support structure for holding and supporting the lower extremity;

said support structure for holding and supporting the lower extremity;

A2 said support structure being formed from a strip of thermoformable plastic material integrally formed with a sheet of thermoformable plastic material;

wherein said support structure is reinforced in predetermined areas and positioned depending upon the particular extremity support desired with [additional] said strip of thermoformable plastic material to provide additional support for the natural foot orthosis.

A3 24. (Amended) The natural foot orthosis for providing support for a lower extremity in claim 15, wherein [additional] strip of thermoformable plastic material is centered on a longitudinal arch on said support structure and adapted to extend

AB [extends] below the malleoli posterior above tendon and curves centered proximal over an edge of said support structure.

28. (Amended) A method for forming a natural foot orthosis for providing support for a lower extremity, comprising the steps of:

A4 forming a mold of said lower extremity having predetermined reinforcement locations strategically positioned depending upon the particular extremity support desired [formed in said mold] for providing increased support for the natural foot orthosis at said predetermined locations;

injecting thermoformable plastic material into said mold for forming said natural foot orthosis.

35. (Amended) The method of forming a natural foot orthosis for providing support for a lower extremity as defined in claim 28, wherein said reinforced location is centered on a longitudinal arch on said mold and adapted to extend [extended] below the malleoli posterior above tendon and curved centered proximal over an edge of said mold.

REMARKS

The Examiner's Official Action dated January 8, 1998 has been received and